## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 RSR-01

FMC-04 OPR-02 DODE-00 CG-00 /070 W ----- 039706

R 111329 Z APR 73 FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7158 INFO GOV PANCANAL USCINCSO

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, US, PN, PQ

SUBJECT: U. S. NATIONAL MARITIME UNION ELECTION

SUMMARY: ELECTION NOW UNDERWAY TO CHOOSE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF U. S. NATIONAL MARITIME UNION ( NMU) CAUSING SOME LOCAL STIR. END SUMMARY.

1. PANAMANIAN CANAL ZONE WORKERS ORGANIZED BY NMU HAVE IN THE PAST REPRESENTED BLOCK VOTE IN FAVOR UNION' S ESTABLISHED LEADERSHIP LED FORMERLY BY JOSEPH CURRAN AND NOW BY SHANNON WALL. TWO OPPOSITION SLATES HAVE MADE EFFORT TO WIN PANAMANIAN VOTES. JAMES MORISSEY, WHO WE UNDERSTAND IS STRONGEST CHALLENGER, SENT FROM NEW YORK MEMBER OF HIS SLATE WHO IS FORMER RESIDENT OF PANAMA TO WIN VOTES WITH ATTACK ON WALL'S ADMINISTRATION, AND WITH CHARGE THAT UNIONISTS NOT GETTING PROPER RETURN FOR DUES PAID AND DUES BEING SENT OUT OF COUNTRY. MILITANT- SOLIDARITY CAUCUS LED BY GENE HERSON SENT REP TO ISTHMUS WHO HAS MADE LOCAL HEADLINES (STAR AND HERALD AND LA ESTRELLA APRIL 10) BY ENCOURAGING CZ WORKERS TO THINK OF STRIKE ACTION AS POSSIBLE WAY TO ADVANCE INTERESTS AND BY CALL FOR "NATIONALIZATION" OF CANAL UNDER WORKERS' CONTROL. WE UNDERSTAND THAT "NATIONALIZATION" IS NOT RPT NOT INTENDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO IMPLY SUPPORT FOR ANY CHANGE IN JURISDICTION.

2. NMU IS LARGES UNION ORGANIZING PANAMANINS IN THE CANAL ZONE AND CLAIMS 8,000 MEMBERS THERE. ACTUAL NUMBER PROBABLY MUCH LESS AND BELIEVED TO BE LOWEST MEMBERSHIP STATISTIC OF RECENT YEARS. NMU'S STRENGTH HAS BEEN TO MAKE FEW PUBLIC STATEMENTS WHILE DELIVERING ON SERVICE TO MEMBERS. ELECTION IS BREAKING DOWN THAT IMAGE. SAYRE

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: Review Date: 23 JAN 2002

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Secure: OPEN

Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971229
Subject: U. S. NATIONAL MARITIME UNION ELECTION SUMMARY: ELECTION NOW UNDERWAY TO CHOOSE NATIONAL LEADER- SHIP OF

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TO: ARA
GOV PANCANAL
SECSTATE WASHDC
USCINCSO

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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